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Letters to the Editor

STATINTL

CIA Is All Wet, Soviet Writer Says

THE assertion of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency that the Soviet Union is in bad economic condition (Washington Daily News Jan. 3) is in variance with the facts. If the Soviet economy were to experience a difficult situation, then such things as a drop in production and in employment—the closing down of enterprises and mass dismissals—would be observed in our country.

The CIA statement, however, does not speak about this. It is not surprising as just the opposite is taking place in the USSR; there is a steady rise in the level of production and employment.

According to Soviet statistics the per capita industrial output during the past 10 years increased by 130 per cent and the volume of agricultural produce grew by 70 per cent (1963 was not typical due to the drought and crop failure). During this period the number of factory and office workers increased by 28,300,000 and now exceeds 70 million.

The "bad economic condition" of the USSR is characterised by a steady growth in the output of all types of industrial goods.

In 1963, as compared with 1953 the Soviet Union produced 80.2 million tons of steel as compared with 38 million tons, extracted 206 million tons of oil as compared with 52.7 million tons, generated 412,000 million kwh of electricity as compared with 134,000 million kwh, pro-

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duced 61 million tons of cement as compared with 15.9 million tons in 1953.

CIA specialists claim that lately the rate of the Soviet Union's economic growth has declined steadily and in the past two years was less than 2.5 per cent annually. I do not know what method was used by CIA economists in establishing this figure. Soviet statistics show a 5 per cent increase in 1963. The rate of industrial growth in the USSR is as follows: 1961—9.2 per cent, 1962—9.5 per cent and 1963—8.5 per cent. In 1963, the total volume of the Soviet Union's industrial output amounted to 65 per cent of the U. S. output as compared with 47 per cent in 1957 and 33 per cent in 1953.

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